REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended as set forth above to clarify features of the claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants assert that the claims are allowable over the cited references.

I. Examiner Interview Dated November 27, 2007

An examiner interview was held on November 27, 2007. During the interview, the claims as proposed herein where discussed. Applicants believe that an agreement was reached that the current changes overcome the cited references. Moreover, the 37 CFR 1.105 request was discussed.

II. Request for Information under 37 CFR 1.105

The office action requests various information and material associated with the beta release cited in the June 13, 2006 beta release. The office action requests a copy of the beta release. Applicants' response to this request is that a copy of the beta release is either unknown or not readily available. The office action requests copies of all documentation supplied with the beta release. Applicants' response to this request is that any documentation related to the beta release is not available. However, attached to this Response is a spreadsheet print out including a list of downloads that were available on the beta website that no longer exists. The list of downloads include assignments in a step by step fashion that allowed a user to try out the new functionality. The office action requests a description of the method of release, including a list of recipients of the beta release and a description of the method of selection of recipients. Applicants' response to this question is that the beta test was distributed through the mail in a CD format containing both the executable application and software documentation, except for 1 beta participant downloaded the executable application over the Internet. The CDs began shipping to participants on October 25, 2002 and ended Jan. 8, 2003. An initial 491 CDs were shipped on Oct. 25 and an additional 4740 CDs on Oct. 28. The rest of the beta participants had the CDs shipped sporadically throughout the time until Jan. 8. The documentation within the distributed

CD pointed beta testers to the website for further downloads. Generally, Microsoft comes up with a number of beta participants that they would like. Then, good beta testers from prior betas are invited back. Most agreed to participate in this beta. The Beta Program Manager then sent an email to the Microsoft field sales teams for input on various customers that would be interested in participating. Also, the Beta Program Manager posted an open invitation that was our on a beta-tracker website. The volunteers are then evaluated for some experience with Microsoft Office products and had a computer system capable of running the beta application. The resulting number of beta participants ended up being 6,037 participants. The list of their names is in the second sheet of the attached spread sheet print out that is attached to this Response. Each of the beta participants was under a non-disclosure agreement that was part of the End User License Agreement defining the terms of use of the beta application and materials.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 7-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skonnard, "What's New in MSXML 4.0", p. 1-12, published December, 2001 in MSDN Magazine (hereinafter "Skonnard") in view of Armstrong et al. "The Java Web Tutorial" published February 4, 2002 by Sun Microsystems p. 1-84 and 329-366 (hereinafter "Armstrong"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections.

Independent claim 7 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited references:

> calling, ***from a document editor***, the ML schema library via an object-oriented message call, wherein the object-oriented message call is configured ***to access and to modify the content of a ML schema file*** of the ML schema library that is applied to a document;
>
> ***executing a method of the object-oriented message call***;
>
> ***in response to the execution of the method on the ML schema library, causing a modification to content of at least one namespace of the schema file***; and
>
> ***applying the modification of the ML schema file*** to the document to govern the application of ML elements on the document.

The cited references do not teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. The Office Action asserts that Skonnard teaches an API interface for allowing a user to select resources in a ML schema library. The Office Action cites to the Schema Object Model "SOM" discussion on pages 4 and pages 2-3 of Skonnard. Skonnard teaches that the SOM is an in-memory graphical representation of the XSD Schema definition. *Skonnard* at page 3, paragraph 1. The SOM makes it possible to graphically depict type information of objects of the schema. *Skonnard* at page 3, paragraph 2. The SOM provides basic information such as node names, namespace and types. *Skonnard* at page 3, paragraph 4. The SOM facilitates schema validation and reflection. *Skonnard* at page 3, paragraph 2. The programmatic interface discussed in Skonnard is in association with the SOM for providing validation and reflection. *Skonnard* at page 3, paragraphs 2-3. Skonnard also discusses an interface for modeling the overall schema definitions (ISchema). ISchema provides an interface for a graphical representation of the overall global schema. *See Skonnard* at page 3, paragraph 4.

On page 4, paragraph 1 or Skonnard, Skonnard is teaching the structure of the schema itself, where the developers of the schema can define simple types. The type information is part of the schema generation language of XSD and is part of an option available for the schema developer to facilitate validation.

The Office Action also refers to the Xpath extension features. The Xpath extension features work as a transform. These transforms include transformation of date and time to a viewable format. *See Skonnard* at page 7, and FIGURE 12.

With regard to Armstrong, the Office Action asserts that Armstrong teaches several interfaces for passing object properties between Java, and XML. The Office Action cites to the JAX_RPC portion of Armstrong. Armstrong teaches that JAX_RPC is a Java API for developing and using web services. Neither Skonnard not Armstrong teach or otherwise suggest an "object-oriented message call is configured ***to access and to modify the content of a ML schema file*** of the ML schema library that is applied to a document." Skonnard teaches a programmatic interface association with the SOM for populating the object model. Armstrong does not even mention a call to access and modify a schema file. Neither Skonnard nor Armstrong teach or otherwise suggest "***executing a method of the object-oriented message***

call," and ***"in response to the execution of the method on the ML schema library, causing a modification to content of at least one namespace of the schema file."*** Again, in Skonnard, the SOM is an object model, the Xpath extensions are transforms for displaying data in a viewable format, and the simple types pertain to the rules for developing the schema in XSD. Skonnard does not teach or suggest the above combination of features. Also, applicants can find no such teaching or suggestion in Armstrong. Accordingly, applicants believe that independent claim 7 is allowable.

Independent claim 19 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited references:

> receiving an object-oriented message call on the ML schema library, wherein the object-oriented message call is configured ***to access and to modify the content of a ML schema file*** of the ML schema library;
>
> ***executing a method of the object-oriented message call***;
>
> ***in response to the execution of the method on the ML schema library, causing a modification to the content of at least one namespace of the schema file***; and
>
> ***associating the modification of the ML schema file*** with a document to govern the application of ML elements on the document.

The cited references do not teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. Neither Skonnard not Armstrong teach or otherwise suggest an "object-oriented message call is configured ***to access and to modify the content of a ML schema file*** of the ML schema library." Skonnard teaches a programmatic interface association with the SOM for populating the object model. Armstrong does not even mention a call to access and modify a schema file. Neither Skonnard nor Armstrong teach or otherwise suggest "***executing a method of the object-oriented message call,"*** and ***"in response to the execution of the method on the ML schema library, causing a modification to content of at least one namespace of the schema file."*** Again, in Skonnard, the SOM is an object model, the Xpath extensions are transforms for displaying data in a viewable format, and the simple types pertain to the rules for developing the schema in XSD. Skonnard does not teach or suggest the above combination of features. Also, applicants

can find no such teaching or suggestion in Armstrong. Accordingly, applicants believe that independent claim 19 is allowable.

Independent claim 23 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited references:

> a processor;
>
> a memory having computer-executable instructions stored thereon, wherein the computer-executable instructions are configured to:
>
> > receive an object-oriented message call on the ML schema library, wherein the object-oriented message call is configured ***to access and to modify the content of a ML schema file*** of the ML schema library;
> >
> > ***execute a method of the object-oriented message call;***
> >
> > ***in response to the execution of the method on the ML schema library, cause a modification to the content of at least one namespace of the schema file***; and
> >
> > ***associate the modification of the ML schema file*** with a document to govern the application of ML elements on the document.

The cited references do not teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. Neither Skonnard not Armstrong teach or otherwise suggest an "object-oriented message call is configured ***to access and to modify the content of a ML schema file*** of the ML schema library." Skonnard teaches a programmatic interface association with the SOM for populating the object model. Armstrong does not even mention a call to access and modify a schema file. Neither Skonnard nor Armstrong teach or otherwise suggest computer-executable instructions that are configured to "***execute a method of the object-oriented message call,"*** and ***"in response to the execution of the method on the ML schema library, cause a modification to content of at least one namespace of the schema file."*** Again, in Skonnard, the SOM is an object model, the Xpath extensions are transforms for displaying data in a viewable format, and the simple types pertain to the rules for developing the schema in XSD. Skonnard does not teach or suggest the above combination of features. Also, applicants can find no such teaching or suggestion in Armstrong. Accordingly, applicants believe that independent claim 23 is allowable.

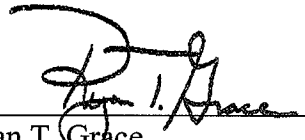
With regard to the dependent claims, the dependent claims include features that are not taught or suggested by the cited references. The dependent claims include features associated with what type of modification is caused on the scheme by executing the method. Applicants can find no teachings of these features within the cited reference and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Moreover, the dependent claims ultimately depend from the independent claims above. As such, they should be found allowable for at least those same reasons.

IV. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



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